

Name _____

An ellipsis is a series of three dots (. . .) which often shows that some text has been left out. But it may also indicate a pause, a hesitation, or an incomplete thought, especially when used within a quotation. The dash is used either to signal an interruption, or to call attention to some extra information.

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence below. Identify what the ellipsis or dash in each sentence indicates. Write the correct letter on the line.

A. hesitation

B. an unfinished thought

C. pause

D. interruption

E. calling attention

1. The man on the witness stand looked around the courtroom . . . and indicated John. _____
2. Kellie—the same girl I told you about last week—is in trouble again _____
3. There are only a few ways to make me angry . . . by far the most egregious is to lie to me. _____
4. “There is no way,” John said firmly. “I just . . . no.” _____
5. Most kids like to play outside, but my daughter . . . _____
6. “But without him we can’t possibly—” _____
7. Those kids —all dressed in animal costumes—are protesting the circus. _____
8. I would like to take you to dinner . . . I really like you. _____
9. She did everything she could, up to and including . . . well, that didn’t work either. _____

ANSWERS

1. A
2. E
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. D
7. E
8. C
9. B